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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/519,413	03/03/2000	George Francis DeStefano	ROC920000010	7577

7590 01/15/2003
Joan Pennington
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EXAMINER

VU, KIEU D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/519,413

Applicant(s)

DESTEFANO ET AL. 

Examiner

Kieu D Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jerger et al ("Jerger", USP 6321334).

Regarding claims 1 and 9, Jerger teaches a method for providing dynamic assistance for disabled user interface resources comprising the steps identifying code for disabling controls (Fig. 7A); changing a state of identified code from disabled to disabled with assistance (Edit Permissions tab 704); providing assistance text to explain why control is disabled (Fig. 8) and providing code for correcting a condition for disabling control (Edit Permissions tab 704, col 22, lines 40-42).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jerger and Jawahar et al ("Jawahar", USP 6256620).

Regarding claims 2 and 10, Jerger does not teach the displaying an assistance icon. However, such feature is known in the art as taught by Jawahar. Jawahar teaches the displaying an assistance icon for viewing by a user (col 3, lines 2-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Jerger and Jawahar before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the interface method taught by Jerger to include the assistance system taught by Jawahar with the motivation being to enable the system to quickly provide users necessary information.

Regarding claims 3 and 11, Jawahar teaches the identifying a user selection of said assistance icon and displaying said assistance text (col 3, lines 4-9).

Regarding claims 4-5 and 12, Jerger teaches the step of displaying an adjustment button; the steps of identifying a user selection of said adjustment button; and utilizing said code for correcting condition for disabling control, and executing an action on eligible items (Edit Permissions tab 704, col 22, lines 40-42).

Regarding claim 6, Jawahar teaches the displaying a help text for viewing by a user (col 3, lines 4-9).

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Regarding claim 7, Jawahar teaches the step of providing an assistance icon with said identified code, said assistance icon for viewing by a user in a context menu of available actions for user selected items (col 3, lines 4-12).

Regarding claim 8, Jerger teaches a computer system having apparatus for providing dynamic assistance for disabled user interface resources comprising a processor 121, a memory 122, a display 147, a bus 123 connecting said processor, said memory and said display, a GUI dynamic assistance program, a graphical user interface including a disabled with assistance menu item; said GUI dynamic assistance program performing the steps of identifying code for disabling controls (Fig. 7A); changing a state of identified code from disabled to disabled with assistance (Edit Permission tab 704); providing assistance text to explain why control is disabled (Fig.8); providing code for correcting a condition for disabling control (Edit Permissions tab 704, col 22, lines 40-42) and displaying an adjustment button 704. Jerger does not teach the providing the displaying an assistance icon for viewing by a user. However, such features are known in the art as taught by Jawahar. Jawahar teaches method and apparatus for monitoring information access which comprises the assistance icon to provide information (col 3, lines 2-3), the displaying an assistance icon for viewing by a user (col 3, lines 2-3), the identifying a user selection of said assistance icon and displaying said assistance text (col 3, lines 4-9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Jerger and Jawahar before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the interface method taught by Jerger to include the assistance system taught by

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Jawahar with the motivation being to enable the system to quickly provide users necessary information.

5. Applicant's arguments filed 11/19/02 have been fully considered.

Arguments against Orton reference are now moot since Orton reference is removed from the rejection.

Arguments against Jawahar reference are not persuasive since Jawahar does teach the assistance icon and help text for viewing by the user as claimed.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kieu D. Vu whose telephone number is (703-605-1232). The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:00AM to 3:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached on (703-308-3116).

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703)-746-7238 (After Final Communication)

or

(703)-746-7239 (Official Communications)

(703)-746-7240 (For Status Inquiries, draft communication)

and / or:

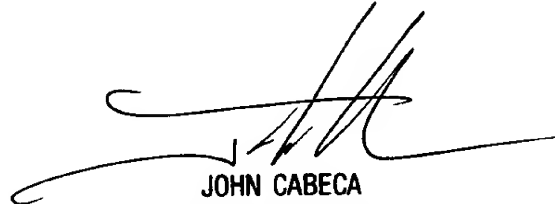
(703)-746-5639 (use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper / amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions)

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-3900).

Kieu D. Vu

Jan 10, 2003



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100